

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A device for creating a path between a first element and a second element, the path being arranged to include a third element and a fourth element, wherein the first element, the second element, [[and]] the third element, and the fourth element are included in an optical network, the device comprising:

a processor; and

a storage device, the storage device being arranged to store computer code for implementing a first mechanism which causes the third element to be identified, the storage device further being arranged to store computer code for implementing a second mechanism which causes the [[a]] path between the first element and the second element to be computed such that the path traverses the third element in a first segment of the path computed while the fourth element is blocked from being included in the first segment and such that the path traverses the fourth element in a second segment of the path computed while the third element is blocked from being included in the second segment, wherein the processor processes the computer codes.

Claim 2 (original): A device according to claim 1 wherein the first element, the second element, and the third element are nodes.

Claim 3 (original): A device according to claim 1 wherein the first element and the second element are nodes, and the third element is a link.

Claim 4 (original): A device according to claim 1 wherein the first mechanism is arranged to identify the third element as being a component of the path.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A device according to claim 4 wherein the first mechanism is further arranged to identify the ~~[[a]]~~ fourth element as being a component of the path, the fourth element being arranged to be traversed after the third element is traversed.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A device according to claim 5 ~~wherein the path includes a plurality of segments, and~~ wherein the second mechanism is further arranged to compute the ~~[[a]]~~ first segment, the first segment being associated with the first element and the third element, the first segment being included in the plurality of segments.

Claim 7 (original): A device according to claim 6 wherein the storage device is further arranged to store computer code for implementing a third mechanism which causes the fourth element and the second element to be substantially prevented from being included as a part of the first segment.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A device ~~[[according to claim 7]]~~ for creating a path between a first element and a second element, the path being arranged to include a third element, wherein the first element, the second element, and the third element are included in an optical network, the device comprising:

a processor; and

a storage device, the storage device being arranged to store computer code for implementing a first mechanism which causes the third element to be identified, the storage device further being arranged to store computer code for implementing a second mechanism which causes the path between the first element and the second element to be computed such that the path traverses the third element, wherein the processor processes the computer codes and the first mechanism is arranged to identify the third element and a fourth element as being components of the path, the fourth element being arranged to be traversed after the third element is traversed, the path including a plurality of segments which includes a first segment associated with the first element and the third element, the second mechanism being further arranged to compute the first segment, the storage device further being arranged to store computer code for implementing a third mechanism which causes the fourth element and the second element to be

substantially prevented from being included as a part of the first segment, wherein the second mechanism is further arranged to compute a second segment associated with the fourth element, the second segment being included in the plurality of segments, and wherein the third mechanism is arranged to substantially prevent the first element and the second element from being included as a part of the second segment.

Claim 9 (original): A device according to claim 8 wherein the second mechanism is further arranged to compute a third segment associated with the second element, the third segment being included in the plurality of segments, and wherein the third mechanism is arranged to substantially prevent the first element and the third element from being included as a part of the third segment.

Claim 10 (currently amended): An apparatus for creating a path between a first element and a second element in an optical network, the path being arranged to include a third element and a fourth element, the apparatus comprising:

a first means for identifying the third element; and

a second means for computing a path between the first element and the second element such that the path traverses the third element in a first segment of the path computed while the fourth element is blocked from being included in the first segment and such that the path traverses the fourth element of the path computed while the third element is blocked from being included in the second segment.

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Claim 11 (original): An apparatus according to claim 10 wherein the first means identifies the third element as being a component of the path.

Claim 12 (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 11 wherein the first means identifies the [[a]] fourth element as being a component of the path, the fourth element being arranged to be traversed after the third element is traversed.

Claim 13 (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 12 ~~wherein the path includes a plurality of segments, and~~ wherein the second means computes the [[a]] first segment, the first segment being associated with the first element and the third element, ~~the first segment being included in the plurality of segments.~~

Claim 14 (currently amended): An apparatus for creating a path between a first element and a second element in an optical network, the path being arranged to include a third element, the apparatus comprising according to claim 13 further including:

a first means for identifying the third element;

a second means for computing a path between the first element and the second element such that the path traverses the third element, wherein the first means identifies the third element as being a component of the path and identifies a fourth element as being a component of the path, the fourth element arranged to be traversed after the third element is traversed, the path being arranged to include plurality of segments, the second means being arranged to compute a first segment associated with the first element and the third element, the first segment being included in the plurality of segments; and

a third means for substantially preventing the fourth element and the second element from being included in the first segment, wherein the second means computes a second segment associated with the fourth element, the second segment being included in the plurality of segments, and wherein the third mean substantially prevents the first element and the second element from being associated with the second segment.

Claim 15 (original): An apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the second means computes a third segment associated with the second element, the third segment being included in the plurality of segments, and wherein the third means substantially prevents the first element and the third element from being associated with the third segment.

Claim 16 (currently amended): An apparatus for routing a path between a source node and a destination node included within a network, the network further including a plurality of elements, the apparatus comprising:

an identifier for identifying a set of elements to be included in the path, the set of
[[network]] elements being included in the plurality of [[network]] elements;

a blocker for blocking at least a first element included in the set of elements from being
used in generating a first segment of the path and for blocking at least a second element included
in the set of elements from being used in generating a second segment of the path; and

a path router, the path router being arranged to generate the first segment such that the
first segment includes the source node and the [[a]] second element, ~~the second element being~~
~~included in the set of elements~~, wherein the first segment does not include the first element, the
path router further being arranged to generate the second segment such that the second segment
includes the first element.

Claim 17 (original): An apparatus according to claim 16 wherein the blocker blocks
substantially all elements included in the set of elements except for the second element from
being used in generating the first segment of the path.

Claim 18 (currently amended): An apparatus [[according to claim 17 wherein]] for
routing a path between a source node and a destination node included within a network, the
network further including a plurality of elements, the apparatus comprising:

an identifier for identifying a set of elements to be included in the path, the set of
elements being included in the plurality of elements;

a blocker for blocking at least a first element included in the set of elements from being
used in generating a first segment of the path, wherein the blocker blocks substantially all
elements included in the set of elements except for the second element from being used in
generating the first segment of the path; and

a path router, the path router being arranged to generate the first segment such that the
first segment includes the source node and a second element, the second element being included
in the set of elements, wherein the first segment does not include the first element and the
blocker is arranged to unblock the second element after the first segment is generated and to
block at least one element included in the plurality of elements from being included in a second

segment of the path, the at least one element included in the plurality of elements being a component of the first segment.

Claim 19 (original): An apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the path router is further arranged to generate the second segment such that the second element is a component of the second segment.

Claim 20 (original): An apparatus according to claim 17 wherein the blocker is further arranged to block the source node from being included in the second segment.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A method for computing a circuit path between a source node and a destination node of an optical network, the method comprising:

identifying at least a first element that is to be traversed by the circuit path between the source node and the destination node; and

routing a first segment automatically, the first segment being a part of the circuit path, wherein when the first element is a node, the source node and the first element are components of the first segment and wherein routing the first segment automatically includew routing the first segment automatically using a shortest path first algorithm.

Claim 22 (canceled)

Claim 23 (original) A method as recited in claim 21 further including:

identifying a second element that is to be traversed by the circuit path between the first element and the destination node; and

blocking the second element from being available for use in routing the first segment automatically, wherein routing the first segment automatically includes routing the first segment to substantially avoid including the second element as a component.

Claim 24 (original): A method as recited in claim 23 further including:

blocking the destination node from being available for use in routing the first segment automatically, wherein routing the first segment automatically further includes routing the first segment to substantially avoid including the destination node as a component.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A method ~~as recited in claim 23~~ further including for computing a circuit path between a source node and a destination node of an optical network, the method comprising:

identifying at least a first element that is to be traversed by the circuit path between the source node and the destination node;

identifying a second element that is to be traversed by the circuit path between the first element and the destination node;

blocking the second element from being available for use in routing a first segment automatically;

blocking the destination node from being available for use in routing the first segment automatically;

routing the first segment automatically, the first segment being a part of the circuit path, wherein when the first element is a node, the source node and the first element are components of the first segment, routing the first segment automatically including routing the first segment automatically using a shortest path first algorithm to substantially avoid including the second element as a component and substantially avoiding including the destination node as a component;

unblocking the second element such that the second element is available for use in routing a second segment automatically, the second segment being a part of the circuit path;

blocking the source node from being available for use in routing the second segment automatically; and

routing the second segment automatically, wherein the second element is a component of the second segment and the source node is not a component of the second segment.

Claim 26 (original): A method as recited in claim 25 further including:

blocking substantially all components of the first segment from being available for use in routing the second segment automatically.

Claim 27 (original): A method as recited in claim 26 wherein a terminus of the first segment is a beginning of the second segment, and the terminus of the first segment is not blocked from being available for use in routing the second segment automatically.

Claim 28 (original): A method as recited in claim 21 wherein when the first element is a first link, the method further includes:
identifying an initial node of the first link.

Claim 29 (original): A method as recited in claim 28 wherein routing the first segment automatically includes routing the first segment from the source node to the initial node of the first link when the first element is the first link.

Claim 30 (original): A method as recited in claim 29 further including:
routing a second segment automatically, wherein the first link is included in the second segment.

Claim 31 (original) A method as recited in claim 29 further including:
identifying a second element that is to be traversed by the circuit path between the first element and the destination node; and
blocking the second element from being available for use in routing the first segment automatically, wherein routing the first segment automatically includes routing the first segment to substantially avoid including the second element as a component.

Claim 32 (original): A method as recited in claim 31 further including:
blocking the destination node from being available for use in routing the first segment automatically, wherein routing the first segment automatically further includes routing the first segment to substantially avoid including the destination node as a component.

Claim 33 (currently amended): A computer program product for computing a circuit path between a source node and a destination node of an optical network, the computer program product comprising:

computer code that causes at least a first element that is to be traversed by the circuit path between the source node and the destination node to be identified;

computer code that causes a first segment to be routed, the first segment being a part of the circuit path, wherein when the first element is a node, the source node and the first element are components of the first segment, and wherein the computer code that causes the first segment to be routed includes computer code that causes the first segment to be routed using a shortest path first algorithm; and

a computer-readable medium that stores the computer codes.

Claim 34 (canceled)

Claim 35 (original): A computer program product as recited in claim 33 further including:

computer code that causes a second element that is to be traversed by the circuit path between the first element and the destination node to be identified; and

computer code that causes the second element to be blocked from being available for use in routing the first segment automatically, wherein the computer code that causes the first segment to be routed includes computer code that causes the first segment to be routed to substantially avoid including the second element as a component.

Claim 36 (original): A computer program product as recited in claim 35 further including:

computer code that causes the destination node to be blocked from being available for use in routing the first segment, wherein the computer code that causes the first segment to be routed further includes computer code that causes the first segment to be routed to substantially avoid including the destination node as a component.

Claim 37 (currently amended): A computer program product ~~as recited in claim 35~~
further including:

computer code that causes at least a first element that is to be traversed by the circuit path
between the source node and the destination node to be identified;

computer code that causes a second element that is to be traversed by the circuit path
between the first element and the destination node to be identified;

computer code that causes the second element to be blocked from being available for use
in routing a first segment;

computer code that causes the destination node to be blocked from being available for use
in routing the first segment;

computer code that causes the first segment to be routed, the first segment being a part of
the circuit path, wherein when the first element is a node, the source node and the first element
are components of the first segment, the computer code that causes the first segment to be routed
including computer code that causes the first segment to be routed using a shortest path first
algorithm and computer code that causes the first segment to be routed to substantially avoid
including the second network element as a component and to substantially avoid including the
destination node as a component;

computer code that causes the second element to be unblocked such that the second
element is available for use in routing a second segment, the second segment being a part of the
circuit path;

computer code that causes the source node to be blocked from being available for use in
routing the second segment; [[and]]

computer code that causes the second segment to be routed, wherein the second element
is a component of the second segment and the source node is not a component of the second
segment; and

a computer-readable medium that stores the computer codes.

Claim 38 (original): A computer program product as recited in claim 37 further
including:

computer code that causes substantially all components of the first segment to be blocked from being available for use in routing the second segment automatically.

Claim 39 (original): A computer program product as recited in claim 33 wherein when the first element is a first link, the computer program product further includes:
computer code that causes an initial node of the first link to be identified.

Claim 40 (original): A computer program product as recited in claim 39 wherein the computer code that causes the first segment to be routed automatically includes computer code that causes the first segment to be routed from the source node to the initial node of the first link when the first element is the first link.

Claim 41 (original): A computer program product as recited in claim 40 further including:
computer code that causes a second segment to be routed automatically, wherein the first link is included in the second segment.

Claim 42 (original): A computer program product as recited in claim 33 wherein the computer-readable medium is one selected from the group consisting of a hard disk, a CD-ROM, a DVD, a computer disk, a tape drive, a computer memory, and a data signal embodied in a carrier wave.